

XXX. *Extracts from the* MINUTE-BOOK *of the* LINNEAN SOCIETY *of*
LONDON.

1845.

Nov. 4. **T**HE special thanks of the Society were ordered to be presented to Joseph Janson, Esq., for his present of three additional Cabinets for the Society's Collection of Dried Plants.

1846.

May 24. The Secretary announced that the late Joseph Janson, Esq. F.L.S., had bequeathed to the Society a Legacy of £100.

1847.

Jan. 8. At a Special General Meeting convened by the Council in the terms of the following circular :—

“ SIR,

“ Linnean Society, 32 Soho Square,
December 28th, 1846.

“ You are requested to attend a Special General Meeting of the Society, on Friday the 8th of January next, at two o'clock in the afternoon *precisely*, to consider the subject of the following Statement and Resolution of Council.

“ The late Edward Rudge, Esq., F.L.S., who died on the 3rd of September last, has in his will made the following bequest :—

‘ I give and bequeath to the President and Council for the time being of the Linnean Society of London, the sum of Two Hundred Pounds, in trust, to invest the same in the names of Trustees, in the purchase of 3 per cent. Consolidated Bank Annuities, and from time to time, as occasion may require, out of the Dividends thereof, to purchase a Gold Medal, to be called ‘The Linnean Medal,’ to be awarded by the President and Council of the said Society, at their discretion, to the Fellow of the said Society who shall write the best communication in each volume which after my decease shall be published by the said Society, in either of the four departments of Natural History, every such Gold Medal to contain the Profile Bust of Linnæus in his full dress, encircled by his name and the dates of his birth and death on the one side, and the engraved name of the Fellow of the said Society to whom such Medal shall be awarded, encircled by a wreath of the *Linnæa borealis*, on the obverse.’

Extracts from the Minute-Book of the Linnean Society.

“The Council has repeatedly had the subject and terms of this bequest under its serious consideration, and has, after much patient and anxious deliberation, unanimously come to the following resolution :—

‘Resolved,—That in the opinion of this Council, on a full consideration of the terms of the bequest of the late Edward Rudge, Esq., of the interest of a sum of £200, for the purpose of establishing a Medal ‘to be awarded by the President and Council of the (Linnean) Society, at their discretion, to the Fellow of the said Society who shall write the best communication in each volume which after his (the testator’s) decease shall be published by the said Society, in either of the four departments of Natural History,’ it is inexpedient to accede to the liberal intentions of the testator under the conditions expressed in his will.’

‘That this Resolution be submitted to a Special Meeting of this Society.’

“This Resolution, which has received the entire concurrence of the President and of every Member of the Council, was chiefly founded on the following considerations :—

“The great object of the Linnean Society, as of all other bodies similarly constituted, is the production and publication of such essays as tend to the advancement of that branch of science which it cultivates. The principal question therefore in reference to Mr. Rudge’s bequest, is the manner in which its acceptance would operate on the Society’s publications, and the Council has arrived at the conclusion that its tendency would be prejudicial rather than favourable; inasmuch as while the Medal would offer no inducement to some of those Members who have hitherto been in the habit of communicating papers which have had a place in the ‘Transactions,’ they might, on the contrary, be unwilling to submit their future communications to this new ordeal; and it does not appear probable that the Medal would prove a stimulus to the production of more valuable Essays from any other class of the Society. On the other hand, it is probable that dissatisfaction would arise in the minds of some of those Members, who after contributing papers to more than one volume of the ‘Transactions,’ should fail in obtaining the award of a Medal.

“A second objection to the acceptance of the bequest arises from the absence of any discretionary power of withholding the Medal, which is necessarily to be awarded to the best paper in every volume, and consequently to papers of very unequal value, thereby lowering the character of the Medal, and consequently affecting the scientific reputation of the Society itself.

“Differences of opinion, and consequent dissatisfaction, would also be not

unlikely occasionally to arise in deciding upon the comparative merits of papers in botany and zoology, the two branches of natural history, of which, for many years past, the Transactions of the Society have exclusively consisted.

“Another point may still be noticed as decidedly unfavourable to the acceptance of the bequest, namely, the not improbable award of the Medal by the Council, in some cases to one of its own body, in strict conformity with the conditions of the will; conditions which neither the Council itself, nor (as it appears from the tenor and provisions of the will) any other party has the power to modify.

“These objections have appeared to the Council so important as not to admit of any other course but that of respectfully declining to accept a bequest, the operation of which would in all probability be injurious to the best interests of the Society, by lowering the character of its publications, and endangering the continuance of that harmony which has hitherto prevailed in all essential points. The Council is at the same time deeply sensible of the kind and liberal intentions of Mr. Rudge, and entertains a sincere regret that the express terms of his will should have rendered the acceptance of his bequest liable to such grave objections.

“I have the honour to be, Sir,

“Your most obedient humble Servant,

“JOHN J. BENNETT, *Secretary.*”

It was moved, seconded and carried unanimously, that the Society concur in the Resolution of Council, and that the thanks of the Society be given to the Council for the mode in which they have submitted the question to the consideration of the Society.

1847.

Feb. 16. A Paper was read entitled, “On the Structure and Comparative Physiology of *Chiton* and *Chitonellus*.” By Lovell Reeve, Esq., F.L.S. &c. &c.

Mr. Reeve remarks on the paucity of species of *Chitonidæ* known to Lamarck so lately as 1819, and the very large number (amounting to between two and three hundred) now known to inhabit the western coast of South America, the shores of New Holland and New Zealand, and other localities explored by recent voyagers; and states that he is enabled by the kindness of Mr. Cuming and Capt. Sir Edward

Belcher to offer a few observations on the structure of *Chiton* and such remarks on *Chitonellus* as, in his opinion, will leave no doubt of their claim to generic distinction. He notices the successive additions made to these genera by Mr. Frembly, by Mr. Cuming, by M. Quoy, by Capt. Belcher in the voyages of the Blossom, the Sulphur and the Samarang (and especially in the latter in company with Mr. Arthur Adams), by the Rev. Mr. Hennah, by Dr. Dieffenbach, by Mr. Earl, by Mr. Ronald Gunn, by Mr. Ince, by Dr. Gould, by Mr. Courthony, and by Prof. Edward Forbes and Mr. M'Andrew; and then enters into an examination of the views of authors with reference to their affinity, adopting that first promulgated by Adanson and now generally adopted, that they are immediately related to *Patella*. A description of the animal is then given, and the differences between it and the animal of *Patella* pointed out, as well as the modifications to which it is subject in different species. The distinctions between the shells and animals of *Chiton* and *Chitonellus* are more particularly insisted on; and the author proceeds to point out a marked difference in the habits of the two genera. He states, on the authority of Mr. Cuming, that while the Chitons live attached to stones and fragments of shells in deep water, or more frequently under masses of stone and on exposed rocks about low-water mark, the *Chitonelli* dwell in holes and cavities, either of natural formation or bored by other *Mollusca*, into which they thrust themselves by attenuating their bodies in a surprising manner, sometimes turning completely at right angles and at angles again. Those which were only partially imbedded were found to have entered holes too small to contain them, and the posterior part of their bodies remained suspended externally, fat and swollen, and constantly separating from the anterior half when any attempt was made to draw them forcibly from their retreats. These remarks apply to *Chitonellus fasciatus*, collected by Mr. Cuming in the Philippine Islands in great abundance and of extraordinary dimensions, extending frequently to a foot or more in length. Capt. Sir E. Belcher and Mr. Adams collected the same species in the Korean Archipelago, where they were found in

company with Chitons and noticed to be of locomotive habits ; the *Chitonellus* seeking retirement in a hole or cavity, but crawling away from its attachment on being disturbed, at about the pace of the common garden snail.

For these reasons, although Mr. Reeve does not regard the other subdivisions proposed in the genus *Chiton* as of greater value than sectional, he considers *Chitonellus* as entitled to rank equally with *Chiton* in its most extended form, being in his opinion clearly distinguished both in structure (as regards the condition of the mantle and its system of calcification) and in habit.